



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 1423

LCO No. 5420

05420_____CE_

Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT CONCERNING REVITALIZING CONNECTICUT'S HERITAGE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Connecticut
2 Humanities Council shall establish an educational and outreach
3 program to assist cultural and heritage organizations and museums.
4 Said program shall include, but not be limited to, a web site designed
5 to be a resource for museums and other organizations regarding (1)
6 visitor surveys, (2) effective web site construction and maintenance, (3)
7 marketing programs, (4) audience and economic impact studies, (5)
8 guides to granting programs and application procedures of major
9 heritage funding sources, and (6) other technical publications and
10 materials. As part of said educational and outreach program the
11 council shall conduct seminars and meetings on marketing and
12 surveying and teaching history.

13 (b) The Connecticut Humanities Council shall establish an online
14 encyclopedia of Connecticut history, which shall include, but not be
15 limited to, essays on Connecticut towns and counties.

16 (c) The Connecticut Humanities Council shall establish an online

17 Connecticut historical database, which shall include, but not be limited
18 to, historical images, links to books and articles, and curriculum
19 resources for teachers. Said database shall also include the use of a
20 metadata cataloger to work with state-wide heritage organizations to
21 digitize their collections.

22 (d) The Connecticut Humanities Council, in collaboration with the
23 Office of the State Historian, The University of Connecticut's College of
24 Liberal Arts and Sciences, Connecticut Public Television and
25 Connecticut History Online, shall establish a curriculum on
26 Connecticut and the nation, which shall include, but not be limited to,
27 documentaries, modules and accompanying curriculum units for high
28 school history classes and an index of program-related, Internet-based
29 materials.

30 Sec. 2. Section 4d-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

32 (a) There is established a Commission for Educational Technology
33 within the Department of Information Technology for administrative
34 purposes only. The commission shall consist of: (1) The Chief
35 Information Officer of the Department of Information Technology, or
36 the Chief Information Officer's designee, the Commissioners of
37 Education and Higher Education, or their designees, the State
38 Librarian, or the State Librarian's designee, the chairperson of the
39 Department of Public Utility Control, or the chairperson's designee,
40 the chief executive officers of the constituent units of the state system
41 of higher education, or their designees, (2) one member each
42 representing the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, the
43 Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the Connecticut
44 Association of Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut
45 Educators Computer Association, and the Connecticut Library
46 Association, (3) a secondary school teacher designated by the
47 Connecticut Education Association and an elementary school teacher
48 designated by the Connecticut Federation of Educational and

49 Professional Employees, and (4) four members who represent business
50 and have expertise in information technology, one each appointed by
51 the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the speaker of the House of
52 Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate. The
53 Lieutenant Governor shall convene the first meeting of the commission
54 on or before September 1, 2000.

55 (b) The commission shall elect a chairperson from among its
56 members. Subject to the provisions of chapter 67, and within available
57 appropriations, the commission may appoint an executive director and
58 such other employees as may be necessary for the discharge of the
59 duties of the commission. Notwithstanding any provision of the
60 general statutes, the executive director shall have the option to elect
61 participation in the state employees retirement system, or the alternate
62 retirement program established for eligible employees in higher
63 education or the teachers' retirement system.

64 (c) The commission shall:

65 (1) Be the principal educational technology policy advisor for state
66 government;

67 (2) Develop, oversee and direct the attainment of state-wide
68 technology goals including:

69 (A) Connecting all institutions of higher education, libraries, public
70 elementary and secondary schools, regional educational service centers
71 and other parties through a state-wide high speed, flexible network
72 that will allow for video, voice and data transmission;

73 (B) Wiring all school classrooms and connecting them to the Internet
74 and to the state-wide high speed network through wired, wireless, or
75 any other digital transmission technology providing high speed
76 connectivity;

77 (C) Providing access for all public schools, public libraries and
78 libraries at institutions of higher education to a core set of on-line full

79 text resources and to the ability to purchase collaboratively for other
80 collections in order to maximize buying power;

81 (D) Ensuring, in cooperation with the State Board of Education,
82 competency in computing skills by the sixth grade for all students;

83 (E) Ensuring competency in specific computing skills and the
84 integration of technology into the curriculum for all public school
85 teachers;

86 (F) Ensuring that institutions of higher education offer a wide range
87 of course and degree programs via the Internet and through other
88 synchronous and asynchronous methods;

89 (3) Coordinate the activities of all state agencies, educational
90 institutions and other parties involved in the creation and
91 management of a reliable and secure network that will offer
92 connectivity and allow for the transmission of video, voice and data
93 transmission to every library, school, regional educational service
94 center and institution of higher education;

95 (4) Be the liaison between the Governor and the General Assembly
96 and local, state and federal organizations and entities with respect to
97 educational technology matters;

98 (5) Develop and maintain a long-range plan and make related
99 recommendations for the coordination of educational technology. The
100 plan shall (A) establish clear goals and a strategy for using
101 telecommunications and information technology to improve
102 education, (B) include a professional development strategy to ensure
103 that teachers and faculty know how to use the new technologies to
104 improve education, (C) include an assessment of the
105 telecommunications, hardware, software and other services that will
106 be needed to improve education, and (D) include an evaluation
107 process that monitors progress towards the specified goals;

108 (6) Measure the availability and usage of Internet access sites

109 available to the public, including, but not limited to, those maintained
110 by state and local government agencies, libraries, schools, institutions
111 of higher education, nonprofit organizations, businesses and other
112 organizations and recommend strategies for reducing the disparities in
113 Internet accessibility and usage across the state and among all
114 potential users;

115 (7) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum
116 involvement of members of the public, educators, librarians,
117 representatives of higher education, the legislature and local officials
118 in educational technology matters and organize, as necessary, advisory
119 boards consisting of individuals with expertise in a particular
120 discipline significant to the work of the commission;

121 (8) On or before January 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the
122 commission shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, on its
123 activities, progress made in the attainment of the state-wide
124 technology goals as outlined in the long-range plan and any
125 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General
126 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
127 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, the State Board of
128 Education, and the Board of Governors of Higher Education. The
129 report shall include recommendations for adjustments to the funding
130 formula for grants pursuant to section 10-262n if there are school
131 districts that are at a disadvantage in terms of wiring their schools and
132 the use of technology in their schools;

133 (9) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with
134 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the
135 provisions of this section;

136 (10) Develop an interconnection among historic and scientific
137 databases that would include information provided by educational
138 institutions, museums, and non-profit scientific organizations that will
139 be within, to the extent possible, the Connecticut education network
140 established pursuant to section 4d-82. Said interconnection shall be

141 available to the public on a subscription basis;

142 [(10)] (11) Take any other action necessary to carry out the
143 provisions of this section.

144 (d) The Commission for Educational Technology may request any
145 office, department, board, commission or other agency of the state to
146 supply such reports, information and assistance as may be necessary
147 or appropriate in order to carry out its duties and requirements.

148 (e) For purposes of this section, educational technology shall
149 include, but not be limited to: (1) Computer-assisted instruction; (2)
150 information retrieval and data transfer; (3) telecommunications related
151 to voice, data and video transmission of instruction related materials
152 and courses; (4) the development and acquisition of educational
153 software; and (5) the instructional uses of the Internet and other
154 technologies.

155 (f) The Commission for Educational Technology shall pass any fees
156 collected pursuant to the subscription service established in
157 subdivision (10) of subsection (c) to the organizations included in the
158 database pursuant to said subdivision (10). Said organizations shall
159 use such funds to convert databases and photo files to digital format.

160 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of one million dollars is
161 appropriated to the Department of Economic and Community
162 Development, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
163 30, 2008, for the purposes of establishing an educational and outreach
164 program pursuant to subsection (a) of section 1 of this act.

165 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of one million dollars is
166 appropriated to the Department of Economic and Community
167 Development, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
168 30, 2008, for the purposes of establishing an online encyclopedia of
169 Connecticut history pursuant to subsection (b) of section 1 of this act.

170 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of one million dollars is

171 appropriated to the Department of Economic and Community
172 Development, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
173 30, 2008, for the purposes of establishing an online Connecticut
174 historical database pursuant to subsection (c) of section 1 of this act.

175 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of one million dollars is
176 appropriated to the Department of Economic and Community
177 Development, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
178 30, 2008, for the purposes of establishing a curriculum on Connecticut
179 and the nation pursuant to subsection (d) of section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	4d-80
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To create a comprehensive array of technical assistance and programs to change the way heritage museums and historical societies imagine, present and market heritage programming to the public.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]